

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02

COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 PM-07

SCI-06 SS-20 FEA-02 INT-08 DOTE-00 FMC-04 CG-00

DLOS-06 SWF-02 DRC-01 /183 W
----- 072874

R 032218Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3112

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0966

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: OIL SPILL PLANS

1. NUMBER OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING GLOBE & MAIL AND MONTREAL GAZETTE, HAVE PUBLISHED RECENT CANADIAN PRESS NEWS ITEMS DATED OTTAWA AND REPORTING CANADIAN NOTE TO US REGARDING WEST COAST OIL TANKERS IN PUGET SOUND AREA. ARTICLES HAVE REPORTED FAIRLY ACCURATELY "SECRET" CONTENTS OF NOTE. GAZETTE STATES THAT CANADIAN OFFICIALS "SAID THEIR HUSH-HUSH STRATEGY IS AIMED AT CONVINCING US AUTHORITIES OF OTTAWA'S DESIRE FOR A 'COOL AND MATURE APPROACH' TO POLLUTION DANGERS WITHOUT THE HEATED PUBLIC PRESSURES THAT HAVE ACCOMPANIED SUCH TALKS IN RECENT YEARS."

2. ARTICLES ALL CITE FIVE POINTS IN CANADIAN NOTE:

- A. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR TANKERS UNLOADING ALASKAN OIL;
- B. JOINT ACTION FOR NAVIGATION CONTROLS;
- C. COOPERATIVE PLANS TO FIGHT OIL SPILLS;
- D. JOINT PLANS TO COMPENSATE SHORE INTERESTS; AND
- E. JOINT PLANNING AND CONSULTATION ON LONG-TERM BASIS TO GOVERN COASTAL SHIPPING.

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3. AS A RESULT OF ARTICLES, FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE
IN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION PERIOD APRIL 1:

MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SAANICH): "...MY QUESTION IS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. IS THE MINISTER
PREPARED TO TABLE IN THE HOUSE THE CANADIAN NOTE DELIVERED TO
THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTING A PROGRAM OF
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS AIMED AT KEEPING OIL TANKERS
AWAY FROM THE COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND PARTICULARLY OUT
OF THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA?"

SHARP (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): "...IT
IS MY INTENTION TO TABLE THIS NOTE. HOWEVER, OUT OF COURTESY
TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT I THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ITS CONTENTS BEFORE I DO SO. IT WILL BE
MY PURPOSE TO TABLE THE NOTE IN A FEW DAYS TIME."

MUNRO: "IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT IN REPLY TO MY
QUESTION ABOUT TANKER ROUTES ON FEBRUARY 23, 1973, THE
MINISTER STATED: 'WHETHER THE TANKERS SHOULD GO TO
ANOTHER POINT FARTHER DOWN THE UNITED STATES COAST IS A
MATTER FOR THE UNITED STATES ITSELF TO DECIDE', AND NOTING
THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOW OFFERED ALTERNATIVE
ROUTES TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TANKERS UNLOADING ALASKAN
OIL FOR THE REFINERIES AT CHERRY POINT, MAY I ASK WHETHER
THIS RECENT ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PRESENTING A NOTE
TO THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER REPRESENTS A
CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY?"

SHARP: "NO... IT WILL STILL BE FOR THE UNITED
STATES TO DECIDE. I HAVE NEVER SAID AT ANY TIME THAT I
WOULD HESITATE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS."

MUNRO: "CAN THE MINISTER CONFIRM THAT ONE ALTERNATIVE
FOR U.S. TANKERS OFF-LOADING OIL FOR THE CHERRY POINT
REFINERIES IS THE OPTION OF SETTING UP A TERMINAL SITE
OFFSHORE WITH AN UNDERSEA PIPELINE TO THE REFINERIES?"

SHARP: "THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE POSSIBILITY. WHEN
I TABLE THE NOTE IN A FEW DAYS TIME, THE HON. MEMBER AND
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THE HOUSE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE ALTERNATIVES WE HAVE PUT
FORWARD."

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